

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The claims presented for examination are as follows:

BT C  
1 1. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system including an  
2 electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system  
3 comprising:

4 a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic  
5 manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a  
6 user, wherein the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic  
7 which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number  
8 records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to;

9 a search process unit which searches contents of the parts based on a  
10 search condition; wherein the search process unit searches contents of each part in  
11 order based on the reference number; and

12 a search result display unit which displays parts which resulted from the  
13 search process unit, in order based on the reference number,  
14 wherein the electronic manual consists of:

15 (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an  
16 application program; or

17 (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

2. (Canceled)

1 3. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further  
2 comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference  
3 number of a part when the user selects and/or refers to the part among parts which  
4 are displayed by the search result display unit.

1 4. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1 further  
2 comprising a reference number update unit which increments by one the reference  
3 number of a part displayed immediately before the user stops displaying of the  
4 search results.

5. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of displaying the searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

6. (Previously Amended) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

7. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table is incorporated into the electronic manual.

8. (Original) The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the reference number table stores the reference number for each attribute of the user.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, a reference number expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has been referred to; and

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number wherein the electronic manual consists of:

(1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program; or

## (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

10. (Currently Amended) A method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, wherein the electronic manual consists of (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an application program or (2) searching of an electronic dictionary, the method comprising the

5 steps of:

6           storing, for each part, a reference number expressing the number of times  
7           the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by  
8           automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the  
9           past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has  
10          been referred to;

11           searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein the  
12          searching step searches contents of each part in order based on the reference  
13          number; and

14           displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the  
15          reference number.

11. (Canceled)

1           12. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of displaying the  
2          searched parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

1           13. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the order of  
2          searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

1           14. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer,  
2          tangibly embodying an electronic manual wherein the electronic manual consists  
3          of information which is to be searched by a help function of an application  
4          program or is searching of an electronic dictionary, comprising:

5           a plurality of parts; and

6           a reference number of each part, the reference number representing the  
7          number of times the corresponding topic is referred to as searched results, wherein  
8          the reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has  
9          been referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the  
10         number of times the respective topic has been referred to; wherein contents of  
11         each part are searchable in order based on the reference number.

1           15. (Previously Amended) The recording medium of claim 14, wherein

2                   B1  
3                   the reference number is stored for each attribute of a user who refers to the part as  
searched results.

1                   C1  
2                   16. (Previously Amended) The recording medium of claim 17, further  
3                   comprising: displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search  
results, in order based on the reference number.

1                   17. (Currently Amended) A recording medium readable by a computer,  
2                   tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to  
3                   perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a  
4                   plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

5                   storing, for each part, a reference number expressing how many times the  
6                   part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference number is generated by  
7                   automatically counting a topic which has been referred to as a search result in the  
8                   past and the reference number records the number of times the respective topic has  
9                   been referred to; and

10                  searching contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in  
11                  order based on the reference number,

12                  wherein the electronic manual consists of:

13                  (1) information which is to be searched by a help function of an  
14                  application program; or  
15                  (2) searching of an electronic dictionary.

1                   18. (Currently Amended) A computer data signal embodied in a carrier  
2                   wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a  
3                   processor, cause the processor to perform the actions of:

4                   storing, for each part of an electronic manual, a reference number  
5                   expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the reference  
6                   number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been referred to  
7                   as a search result in the past and the reference number records the number of times  
8                   the respective topic has been referred to,

9                   wherein the electronic manual consists of: (1) information which is to be searched

10 *JK* by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic  
11 dictionary;

12 searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein  
13 contents of each part are searched in order based on the reference number; and

14 displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search results,  
15 in order based on the reference number.

1 19. (Currently Amended) A program product comprising, computer  
2 readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable  
3 instructions; the instructions being adaptable to enable a computer to operate  
4 according to the steps of:

5 storing, for each part of an electronic manual, a reference number  
6 expressing the number of times the part is referred to by a user, wherein the  
7 reference number is generated by automatically counting a topic which has been  
8 referred to as a search result in the past and the reference number records the  
9 number of times the respective topic has been referred to,  
10 wherein the electronic manual consists of (1) information which is to be searched  
11 by a help function of an application program; or (2) searching of an electronic  
12 dictionary;

13 searching contents of the parts based on a search condition; wherein the  
14 searching searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number;  
15 and

16 displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the  
17 reference number.